(b) what steps Government propose to take to protest rights of the legitimate cassets producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Through newspaper reports and representations received, the Government are aware that piracy of music casettes still exists in the country.

(b) As a measure to check piracy, the Copyright Act, 1957 has been amended by the Copyright (Amendment) Act, 1984 by which the punishment for copyright infringement has been increased and made mandatory so as to have a deterrent effect on the incidence of piracy. Punishment has been increased for second and subsequent convictions. Copyright infringement has also been made a cognisable offence. It has also been declared as an Economic Offence so that the period of limitation provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for offences will not be applicable to this offence. The producers of records are required to display particulars of copyright ownership etc. on the record as well as the container thereof, so as to prima-facie distinguish genuine records.

Under the provisions of the Indian Copyright Act. 1957, copyright is a proprietary right and it is for the owners of copyright to institute civil or criminal proceedings in the appropriate court of law for enforcement of their rights.

Misappropriation of funds in the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan

1236. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dirctor of the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan was invoved in misappriation of funds to the tune Rs. Seven lakhs and was found guilty by a Committee appointed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development but no action has since been taken against him; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) On the basis of the complaints received about alleged financial and administrative irregularities, the Ministry constituted an Inspecton Team in September, 1981 to enqnire into the allegations. The Governing Council of the Sansthan in its meeting held on 2nd July, 1982, empowered the Chairman of the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (Union Deputy Minister for Education, Culture and Social Welfare) to constitute a sub-committee of the Governing Council to examine the report of the Inspection Team and to scrutinise the items purchased by the Sansthan. The Chairman was authorised to take a decision on the report of the Sub-Committee. The sub-committee so constituted submitted its report to the Chairman in August, 1982. After considering the report, it was found that there were no mala fide intentions and the purchases had been made keeping in view the needs of the Sansthan particularly those arising from the expansion of its activities. It was decided to regularise the purchases and settle payments with various parties. The Government decided to close the case. The above decision of the Chairman was also reported to the members of the Governing Council and Mandal in the meetings held on 9th and 10th April, 1983.

Foreign companies engaged in Shipping Industry in India

1237. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreoign companies are working in the shipping industry in India; and

(b) if so, what are their names alongwith the names of the countries?